

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NATO 03550 181113Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
/059 W

-----190003Z 059743 /64

R 181102Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3669  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG  
ALL NATO CAPITALS  
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 03550

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC  
SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 17, 1977: AGENDA  
ITEM IVB, INTEROPERABILITY REPORT  
1. SYG LUNS BRIEFLY OUTLINED THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC  
COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY (C-M(77)26  
(REVISED)) INDICATING THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD ADOPTED  
ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. LUNS EMPHASIZED THAT A DECISION ON  
THE FUTURE AND STATUS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WOULD BE  
TAKEN AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. HE RECOMMENDED THAT DEFENSE  
MINISTERS ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY  
FOREIGN MINISTERS INCLUDING AGREEMENT TO EXTEND THE LIFE  
OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. IN ADDITION, LUNS SPECIFICALLY  
CALLED ATTENTION TO THE ANNEX ON TANK GUN AMMUNITION WHICH,  
HE SAID, DESERVED SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 03550 181113Z

2. STEMERDINK (THE NETHERLANDS) SAID HE WAS CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON INTEROPERABILITY RATHER  
THAN ON STANDARDIZATION. HE SAID THIS EMPHASIS WAS UNDER-  
STANDABLE SINCE INTEROPERABILITY IS MORE EASILY ACHIEVABLE  
THAN STANDARDIZATION IN THE NEAR TERM; BUT, HE SAID, WE  
CANNOT ALLOW THIS EMPHASIS TO REPRESENT THE ENTIRE STORY.  
FROM THE STANDPOINT OF AFFORDABILITY, HE WENT ON, ECONOMIES

OF SCALE WILL NOT BE REALIZED IF WE WORK ONLY ON THE PROBLEM OF INTEROPERABILITY. ALSO, TO ACHIEVE INTEROPERABILITY BY THE USE OF INTERFACE EQUIPMENT, HE SAID, CAN BE A COSTLY ALTERNATIVE TO STANDARDIZATION. IN THE CONTEXT OF AFFORDABILITY HE HAD TWO IMPORTANT RELATED POINTS TO MAKE. FIRST, DECISIONS ON IMPORTANT PROGRAMS ARE TAKEN ON A BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL BASIS. NON-PRODUCER NATIONS ARE NOT ASKED FOR THEIR INPUT AND ARE ONLY LATER BROUGHT INTO THE PROGRAM AND EXPECTED TO LIVE WITH THE COSTS. HE SAID THAT IN SOME CASES SMALLER NATIONS DO NOT ALWAYS NEED THE TECHNOLOGICAL SOPHISTICATION BUT MUST PAY FOR IT ANYWAY BECAUSE THE PROGRAM IS ALREADY WELL ALONG. HE CITED THE F-16 AND NATO AWACS PROGRAMS AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLES. SECOND, THERE ARE SOMETIMES LEGITIMATE INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH APPEAR TO FAVOR A SYSTEM OF PROJECT-BY-PROJECT COMPENSATION. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THIS APPROACH DOES NOT ALWAYS WORK; HE CALLED FOR CONSIDERATION OF A SYSTEM OF INTER-PROJECT COMPENSATION TO BALANCE OUT THE COSTS OVER MULTIPLE PROGRAMS.

3. IN RESPONSE, LUNS SAID HE COULD NOT HIDE HIS SYMPATHY FOR THE PROBLEMS MENTIONED BY STEMERDINK AND AGREED THAT STANDARDIZATION WAS THE BEST SOLUTION FROM A COST-EFFECTIVE STANDPOINT. CONCERNING STEMERDINK'S LAST TWO POINTS, LUNS ASSURED HIM THAT HIS IDEAS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN WORKING ON THE NEW US INITIATIVE THAT HAD BEEN PUT BEFORE MINISTERS. PARENTHETICALLY, LUNS SUGGESTED THAT THE IEPG MIGHT ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER STEMERDINK'S APPROACH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 03550 181113Z

4. LUNS THEN CALLED ON DEFENSE MINISTERS TO NOTE THE STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS MOD AND ACCEPT THE REPORT AS WRITTEN. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. BENNETT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NATO03550  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770541/aaaabjhb.tel  
**Line Count:** 101  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Message ID:** 2f4a5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2460531  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 17, 1977: AGENDA ITEM IVB, INTEROPERABILITY REPORT  
**TAGS:** MPOL, NATO, DPC  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2f4a5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009